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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/834,782	04/13/2001	Graham Bent	GB920000063US1	3767

7590 06/17/2004

IBM Corp. IP Law Dept T81/B062
3039 Cornwallis Road
PO Box 12195
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2195

EXAMINER	
BANANKHAH, MAJID A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2127	

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/834,782

Applicant(s)

BENT ET AL.

Examiner

Majid A Banankhah

Art Unit

2127

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/13/01.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to application filed on April 13, 2001. Claims 1-17 are considered for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman-Amuah (U.S. Pat. No. 6,742,015, hereinafter Bowman).

Per claims 1, 16-17, an application adapted to run on a client apparatus connectable with a server across a Network (Fig.1, and col. 15, lines 22-52, Web application which span from client to server and interoperate),

said server adapted to simultaneously share information maintained therein with a plurality of heterogeneous clients (col. 56, lines 41 to col. 57, line 4, access to Network attached resource and the requirement for heterogeneous environment),

wherein said information comprises a plurality of ideas (col. 45, lines 6-20, information to be displayed as an editable filed,), said application comprising:

means for retrieving said ideas from said server; means for defining a new idea in a manner dependent on the client apparatus platform (col. 108, lines 14-28, Push/Pull Services allow for interest in a particular piece of information to be registered and then changes or new information

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to be communicated to the subscriber list, and the technology uses the Internet's strengths as a two-way conduit by allowing people to specify the type of content they want to receive); and means for transmitting said new idea to said server in a platform-independent manner (col. 74, lines 27-40, Lotus Notes--platform-independent client/server mail system. Notes Mail can support over 1,500 active users per server, offering Internet integration, distributed replication and synchronization).

Bowman-Amuah, does not teach of "transmitting new edited information [new idea] for maintenance". However, Bowman teaches of a Directory service that makes resources location and platform independent, since it allows users to locate resources via the directory and regardless of their physical location, for the reason to be able to locate resource regardless of their physical location and client's platform. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to maintain the information, same way as resource to allow users to locate information via a directory and regardless of their physical location and platform (col. 62, line 66 to col. 63, line14).

Per claim 2, an application as claimed in claim 1 wherein said application is interactive and includes:

means for rendering said retrieved ideas in a manner dependent on the client apparatus platform; and means, responsive to user interaction, for manipulating said retrieved idea (col. 108, lines 14-28, Push/Pull Services allow for interest in a particular piece of information to be registered and then changes or new information to be communicated to the subscriber list, and the

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technology uses the Internet's strengths as a two-way conduit by allowing people to specify the type of content they want to receive).

Per claim 3, an application as claimed in claim 1 wherein said application is non- interactive and includes: means, responsive to new ideas of a pre-determined type transmitted to said server, for defining a search (col. 108, lines 14-28, the technology uses the Internet's strengths as a two-way conduit by allowing people to specify the type of content they want to receive); and wherein said defining means is responsive to said search results for encoding said results as ideas for transmittal by said transmitting means said server (col. 108, lines 14-28, manually searching for content they want and "pulling" it back to the desktop via a graphical browser.).

Per claims 4-7, an application as claimed in claim 2, wherein said ideas comprise at least one relationship idea having attributes defining a link between two other ideas and wherein said application includes means for defining a relationship between two ideas (see, col. 11, lines 39-58, implementations of a function behind the same name is called polymorphism and it greatly simplifies communication among objects, and col. 55, lines 6-18, Attribute Search--scans short lists (attributes) of important words that are associated with a document and returns documents that match the search criteria. For example, a user may query for documents written by a specific author or created on a particular date. Attribute search brings the capabilities of the SQL-oriented database approach to finding documents by storing in a database the values of specially identified fields within a document and a reference to the actual document itself. In order to support Attribute Search an index maintains documents' attributes, which it uses to manage, find

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and catalog documents. This is the least complicated approach of the searching methods, and Fig.'s 65, Attribute Names method in the attribute dictionary pattern environment, 82, and 93, type of middleware).

Per claim 8, an application as claimed in claim 6, wherein said idea types comprises at least one of thoughts, images and groups ideas (col. 110, lines 42-50, information, image and text).

Per claim 9, an application as claimed in claim 6 comprising:

means for subscribing to specified idea types such that said client application is informed when ideas of said type are transmitted to said server (col. 70, lines 11-18, and col. 71, lines 45-58).

Per claim 10, an application as claimed in claim 6, wherein ideas of at least some of said idea types are defined as being adapted to contain ideas of at least one idea type (col. 70, lines 27-32).

Per claim 11, an application as claimed in claim 10, comprising:

means for constructing a plurality of hierarchies of ideas; means for moving ideas within a hierarchy according to said idea types; and

means for transferring ideas between hierarchies according to said idea types (col. 54, line 60 to col. 55, line 2).

Per claims 12-13, an application as claimed in claim 11, comprising:

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means for selecting one of said rendered ideas; and means for converting said one idea and any ideas below said one idea in a hierarchy to a markup document comprising definitions associated with any idea types of ideas within said hierarchy and definitions of any ideas within said hierarchy (col. 41, lines 10-23, To this end, leading Internet developers devised Extensible Markup Language (XML), a watered-down version of SGML that reduces its complexity while maintaining its flexibility. Like SGML, XML is a meta-language that allows authors to create their own customized tags to identify different types of data on their Web pages).

Per claim 14, an application as claimed in claim 12, wherein said markup document language is Extensible Markup Language (XML) (col. 41, lines 10-49, XML).

Per claim 15, an application as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for maintaining new ideas at the server stores said new ideas as tuples of a Tuplespace at said server. Bowman fails to teach of maintaining edited information as tuples of tuplespace. Bowman teaches of a Directory service for the reason to make access to information in a structured way and makes the system more efficient. It is well known in the art to make a directory in a file structure [or tuple form] for the ease of access. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to maintain the information in tuple form, for the reason to make access to information in a structured way and makes the system more efficient (col. 62, line 66 to col. 63, line 14).

Conclusion

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4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US. Pat. No. 6,536,037, Guheen et al., Filed May 27, 1999.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Majid A. Banankhah** whose voice telephone number is **(703) 308-6903**. A voice mail service is also available at this number.

All response sent to U.S. Mail should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park Two, 2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist). All hand-delivered responses will be handled and entered by the docketing personnel. Please do not hand deliver responses to the Examiner.

All Formal or Official Faxes must be signed and sent to either (703) 308-9051 or (703) 308-9052. Official faxes will be handled and entered by the docketing personnel. The date of entry will correspond to the actual FAX reception date unless that date is a Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal Holiday within the District of Columbia, in which case the official date of receipt will be the next business day. The application file will be promptly forwarded to the Examiner unless the application file must be sent to another area of the office, e.g., Finance Division for fee charging, etc.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is **(703) 305-9600**.

Majid Banankhah

6/13/04


**MAJID BANANKHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER**